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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,790	02/23/2004	Kazuhide Tanaka	A8319.0035/P035	5538

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EXAMINER

WARTALOWICZ, PAUL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1793

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/10/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/782,790	Applicant(s) TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Paul A. Wartalowicz	Art Unit 1793	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY, IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of claims 1-5 in the reply filed on 10/1/07 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thieme et al. (U.S. 2003/0036482).

Thieme et al. teach magnesium boride superconducting wires (paragraph 0002) wherein the magnesium boride is surrounded by tantalum, niobium, nickel, nickel alloys, iron, or molybdenum. The taught wire further comprises a metal laminate on the outside of this barrier layer selected from the group consisting of copper, copper alloys, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum alloys, and nickel alloys. See [0016] – [0018].

As to the limitation of "is assembled into", it is unclear how this limitation lends a patentable distinction between the claimed invention and the prior art. It appears that the prior art meets this limitation as the superconductor and covering metal are abutting the base material (outer covering).

As to the limitation of "one or more holes", it appears that the prior art meets this limitation as the base material (outer covering) has one or more holes with the superconductor and covering metal placed in the hole.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomsic (U.S. 2002/0198111).

Tomsic teaches superconducting wires (paragraph 0002) wherein magnesium diboride is surrounded by metal comprising silver, gold... See [0016], which is surrounded by a metal comprising gold, silver, platinum, palladium, rhodium, copper and aluminum. See [0017].

As to the limitation of "is assembled into", it is unclear how this limitation lends a patentable distinction between the claimed invention and the prior art. It appears that

the prior art meets this limitation as the superconductor and covering metal are abutting the base material (outer covering).

As to the limitation of "one or more holes", it appears that the prior art meets this limitation as the base material (outer covering) has one or more holes with the superconductor and covering metal placed in the hole.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thieme et al. (U.S. 2003/0036482) in view of any one of Yamada et al. (U.S. 5935911) or Meyer et al. (U.S. 5043320).

Thieme et al. teach magnesium boride superconducting wires (paragraph 0002) wherein the magnesium boride is surrounded by tantalum, niobium, nickel, nickel alloys, iron, or molybdenum, Wherein the wire further comprises a metal laminate on the outside of this barrier layer selected from the group consisting of copper, copper alloys, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum alloys, and nickel alloys (paragraphs 0016-0018).

Thieme et al. fail to teach that the base metal has one or more holes.

Yamada et al., however, teach a method for making a superconducting wire (col. 1) wherein a hole is formed in a portion of a molded body for the purpose of inserting core members in the hole (col. 3).

Meyer et al. teach a method for making superconducting wire (col. 1) wherein holes are formed in silver body for the purpose filling the holes with superconductor powder (col. 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time applicant's invention was made to provide a hole is formed in a portion of a molded body in Theime et al. in order to insert core members in the hole (Yamada et al., col. 3) or in order to insert the holes with superconductor powder (Meyer, col. 3) as taught by Yamada et al. or Meyer et al.

As to the limitation of "is assembled into", it is unclear how this limitation lends a patentable distinction between the claimed invention and the prior art. It appears that the prior art meets this limitation as the superconductor and covering metal are abutting the base material (outer covering).

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomsic (U.S. 2002/0198111) in view of any one of Yamada et al. (U.S. 5935911) or Meyer et al. (U.S. 5043320).

Tomsic teaches superconducting wires [0002] wherein magnesium diboride is surrounded by metal comprising silver, gold... See [0016], which is surrounded by a metal comprising gold, silver, platinum, palladium, rhodium, copper and aluminum. See [0017].

As to the limitation of "is assembled into", it is unclear how this limitation lends a patentable distinction between the claimed invention and the prior art. It appears that the prior art meets this limitation as the superconductor and covering metal are abutting the base material (outer covering).

As to the limitation of "one or more holes", it appears that the prior art meets this limitation as the base material (outer covering) has one or more holes with the superconductor and covering metal placed in the hole.

Tomsic fails to teach that the base metal has one or more holes.

Yamada et al., however, teach a method for making a superconducting wire (col. 1) wherein a hole is formed in a portion of a molded body for the purpose of inserting core members in the hole (col. 3).

Meyer et al. teach a method for making superconducting wire (col. 1) wherein holes are formed in silver body for the purpose filling the holes with superconductor powder (col. 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time applicant's invention was made to provide a hole is formed in a portion of a molded body in Tomsic in order to insert core members in the hole (Yamada et al., col. 3) or in order to insert the holes with superconductor powder (Meyer, col. 3) as taught by Yamada et al. or Meyer et al.

As to the limitation of "is assembled into", it is unclear how this limitation lends a patentable distinction between the claimed invention and the prior art. It appears that the prior art meets this limitation as the superconductor and covering metal are abutting the base material (outer covering).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul A. Wartalowicz whose telephone number is (571) 272-5957. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6 M-Th and 8:30-5 on Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman can be reached on (571) 272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Paul Wartalowicz
November 30, 2007

/Steven Bos/
Steven Bos
Primary Examiner
A.U. 1793